



2013 "VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH INVASIVES" GRANTS REPORT FORM

Display Report

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Title:	Spartina Eradication	
Region: Use region number ONLY	1	
Station:	Willapa National Wildlife Refuge	
Contact Person: Name and Phone Number	Eva Kristofik, 360-484-3482	
Project Description: (Up to 250 words)	Willapa NWR and its partners continue the on-going and successful program aimed at eradication of the non-native cordgrass, <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> (<i>Spartina</i>) in Willapa Bay. <i>Spartina</i> is an aggressive noxious weed that severely disrupts the ecosystems of native saltwater estuaries. It out competes native vegetation and converts mudflats into monotypic <i>Spartina</i> meadows, destroying important migratory shorebird and waterfowl habitat, increasing the threat of flooding and severely impacting the state's shellfish industry. <i>Spartina</i> meadows and clone fields covered 8,500 acres of Willapa Bay's productive mudflats. Today 99% of the <i>Spartina</i> has been eliminated, but crews face a daunting job finding the remaining plants in the complex salt marshes surrounding the bay. In 2012, a total of ¼ acre was located and treated on the Refuge, with less than 20 acres found throughout the bay. Although the number of treated acres had decreased, the number of acres to be surveyed has not decreased. Furthermore, the plants are now small and scattered and the time to survey/treat has increased. This funding has helped to support the ongoing survey and eradication effort, including the engagement of volunteers.	
List of Invasives Species Targeted:	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Spartina	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Project Status:	Completed	
Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)	11/01/2013	

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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Volunteer Affiliation: (Check all that apply)	VA_FriendsGrp	VA_Other
Volunteer Involvement: Describe the type of work the volunteers performed. (Up to 150 words)	Volunteers engaged in survey activities to locate spartina plants in Willapa Bay, as well as outreach efforts. This included the coordination of five volunteer work days. Volunteers were deputized as "Saltmarsh Marshalls" and were provided with training and transportation. They helped to locate a number of plants. In one case, a volunteer used her knowledge to educate a friend and together they searched for and found spartina on her own property. She took the appropriate steps to have it documented and sprayed by the County. Another volunteer wrote a story about his experience on the survey team. His article was published in the Friends of Willapa quarterly newsletter (distribution of ~250 people). As an advertisement for the volunteer work days, a different volunteer wrote an article about spartina, eradication efforts and how to get involved. This article was published in the local newspapers.	
Total Number of Volunteers:	49	
Total Number of Volunteer Hours:	370	
Partnerships: List both new and existing partnerships utilized in this project. (Up to 150 words).	Eradicating spartina on Willapa Bay is a multi-faceted effort involving many partners. Willapa NWR locates and treats Spartina plants on the refuge. Pacific County, Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and The Nature Conservancy also treat areas off-refuge. Friends of Willapa NWR and volunteers provide assistance during the summer and fall spray seasons. Five volunteer eradication days were coordinated to help search for spartina on the Refuge. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) provides resources, equipment, and herbicide to state, county, and private landowners. WSDA also coordinates data analysis and reporting among all the partners working on this eradication effort. Washington State University provides technical assistance in designing and testing survey and monitoring methods, as well as statistical support. University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) provides technical assistance and modeling to ensure completion of the eradication program.	

PROJECT RESULTS

Project Results: Give an overview of the results of the project. Include quantifiable measure of success, such as maps produced, efficacy of control measures, number of sites where invasions were detected early and responded to, number of community contacts, etc. (Up to 250 words).	According to Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) records, approximately 30,000 acres throughout Willapa Bay is surveyed annually for Spartina among all the partners. The Refuge is responsible for the southern portion of Willapa Bay, approximately 3,400 acres. Partners are responsible for portions of our Leadbetter Unit located in the northern-west portion of the bay. Each partner was able to survey their area of responsibility a minimum of two times, as required. As recently as 9 years ago, Spartina meadows and clone fields covered 8,500 acres of Willapa Bay's productive mudflats. Today, the native salt marsh has been largely restored and supports important shorebird and waterfowl habitat along with commercial shellfish production. The large thick stands of monoculture have been eradicated, replaced with a thriving intertidal estuary. Continued diligence is required in order to control any future outbreaks and potential spread of Spartina. WSDA estimates less than 1 acre of Spartina were treated throughout the bay this year. A combined total of 0.314 acres of Spartina was located and treated on South Bay, Long Island and East Hills unit on the refuge. This is the first time that the acreage treated on the refuge has increased since large scale herbicide treatments began in 2003. If refuge control efforts in 2014 are not continued or increased the entire eradication effort (17 years of work by 9 agencies/organizations at a cost of over \$16 million dollars) will be at risk.
Number of Acres Treated:	0.04
Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped:	1700
Number of Acres Restored:	3400

BUDGET INFORMATION

Budget: Account for funds in broad categories such as equipment, volunteer stipends, travel, coordinator salary/contract, etc.

Total Grant Amount:	\$ 20,000
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Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total \$ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment / Supplies	1217	6
Chemical		
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Volunteer Stipends	0	0
Volunteer Coordinator Salary/Contract	18783	94
Restoration Materials		
Other		
TOTAL		

Recommendations: (OPTIONAL) How useful was this program for meeting refuge invasive species objectives and how can it be improved?	This program allowed us to boost a wide spread program and educate private citizens in the area. We would not have been able to cover as much ground and encourage future Saltmarsh Marshalls
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